community support, flexible schooling for the hardest to reach children, special provision to promote education of girls, as well as children with special need. The Mid-day Meal programme also complements the strategy to reduce drop-out rates.

Central Government has decided to implement a centrally sponsored Scheme for Universalisation of Access to and Improvement of Quality of Education at Secondary Stage (SUCCESS) with the objective to make secondary education of good quality available, accessible and affordable to all young persons by providing a secondary school within 5 kilometer of every habitation. Besides, it is also proposed to set up 6,000 good quality secondary schools at block level, at the rate of one school in each block, which will serve as benchmark of excellence for other schools in the area. It has also been decided to implement various incentive schemes like (i) 'National Means cum Merit Scholarship', (ii) a national incentive scheme for girls to pursue secondary education, and (iii) a scheme for girls' hostels for girls studying in secondary classes; which would also help in reducing drop-out rates.

Clustering of higher education institutions

324. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be plesed to state:

whether the UGC is pursuing the project of clustering higher education institutions with the objective of optimum utilization of the existing facilities;

if so, in how many States the project is under implementation and what are they;

whether any of the institutions in Andhra Pradesh are covered under the said project;

if so, the details thereof alongwith the financial outlays disbursed during the last three years, year-wise; and

if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Women university in all States

325. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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whether it is proposed to open a women university in all the States;

if so, the status thereof *inter alia,* indicating the time-frame within which it would be established in Orissa;

whether the VCs have made a suggestion for decentralization of administration of universities to control delays in decision-making; and

if so, the status thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Central Government.